

Book Reviews

as cured; that social factors affected duration of stay in hospital as well as prognosis, and that it was difficult to obtain the right type of attendant. It all sounds so familiar to the contemporary psychiatrist. To those who started in practice before 1948, the names of some of these private madhouses will have a nostalgic flavour—Peckham House with its tall Georgian rooms, Camberwell House grim in its South London setting, Ticehurst House surrounded by the beautiful Sussex countryside. So many have disappeared, luckily their records remain; they have had a sympathetic and industrious chronicler in Dr. Parry-Jones.

Genetics and American Society, by KENNETH M. LUDMERER, Baltimore and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972, pp. xi, 222, \$10.00.

Kenneth Ludmerer's *Genetics and American Society* neatly complements two earlier monographs which cover some of the same ground: Mark Haller's *Eugenics: hereditarian attitudes in American thought* (1963), and Donald K. Pickens' *Eugenics and the Progressives* (1968). Both these earlier volumes dealt with general aspects of the American eugenics movement of the early decades of this century. Ludmerer is interested primarily in the interplay between a social movement (eugenics) and a science (human genetics). The relationship between science and society is intricate, and Ludmerer admirably demonstrates how the web of influence is not just from science to society, or *vice versa*. Rather, there is a subtle interplay between the two, as scientists bring their theories and observations to bear on social issues, and as these social issues influence the kind of research that gets done—and not infrequently the kind of data that are obtained.

The relationship between genetics and eugenics is a case in point. Ludmerer shows how the re-discovery of Mendel's work around 1900 gave rise to a science of genetics which seemed to offer promise in understanding and solving problems concerning the fitness—biological and social—of the human race. He points out that early twentieth-century American genetics was overwhelmingly Mendelian (in contrast to the statistical approach in this country of Galton, Pearson and their disciples). This led American geneticists to much careless work, as they tried to explain many complicated human traits in terms of simple Mendelian ratios. Ludmerer goes on to describe how eugenicists relied on dubious scientific data on which to base their programme of social amelioration, and how the eugenics movement caused many geneticists to avoid the study of human genetics. Instead, geneticists of the 1920s and 30s tended to concentrate on *drosophila* and other simple organisms. Finally, Ludmerer examines the rise of contemporary human genetics in the late 1940s and 50s, and particularly its relationship to medical education and research.

This is a fine study, based on wide reading of printed and manuscript sources. In addition, the author has made use of interviews with a number of geneticists, such as L. C. Dunn, Curt Stern, and Lionel Penrose.

Hipócrates en España (siglo XVI), by TERESA SANTANDER RODRÍGUEZ, Madrid, Dirección General de Archivos, y Bibliotecas, 1971, pp. viii, 419, [no price stated].

This is a work of unusually fine bibliographical scholarship. The author has confined herself to exploring the texts and immediate background of Latin or Spanish versions of any of the works of the *Corpus Hippocraticum* published in Spain during the six-

Book Reviews

teenth century, and their commentaries. From her studies she draws clear conclusions.

The first part of the work is devoted to the men responsible for the editions of Hippocrates, including a brief description of their lives, and a short but adequately detailed bibliographical and textual study of their work under survey. A typically well-documented note is on Luis de Lemos, possibly the first Renaissance writer to raise the old question of Galen as to the authenticity of much of the Corpus. In exploring Lemos' treatment of this question she describes in detail his methods and conclusions: and indeed such detailed descriptions are often required where so many of the works are extremely difficult to come by. The author shows herself to be plainly aware of the virtues and limitations of her sources.

The second part, which is the bibliography proper, represents as careful and as full scholarship in description and as thoughtful a regard for visual pleasure as we have come to expect from the best of Spanish work in this field. The title-pages of each work under examination appears both in facsimile and in bibliographical transcription in a way which may seem repetitious, though the accuracy with which it is done, and the inclusion of numbered references to the printers' devices makes it in fact a worthwhile exercise. Each entry is fully collated and includes a transcription of the title of any further sections appearing in the same work. The entries are terminated by references to copies in the ancient libraries of Spain, Portugal and Italy, often sounding like a rollcall of cities once vital in the cause of medical learning, and to further copies in the newer repositories of Paris (at least three libraries), London (the British Museum only), New York (the Hispanic Society of America), and Washington (the National Library of Medicine, now at Bethesda, Md.) and in many other cities of western Europe. Copies in the more important Spanish libraries and some of those in libraries outside Spain have been examined by the author, and their existence is therefore beyond doubt.

The author's brief deductions from her studies make interesting reading, and confirm the assumption that an interest in Hippocrates was largely sustained by the universities. Among her comments she observes that the *Aphorisms*, the *Prognostics* and the *De ratione victus in morbis acutis* were required reading for the medical students, and that many of these versions were produced by the holders of medical chairs in Spain and Italy, while others were as much a by-product of humanism as of medicine. Twenty-three translators and commentators were responsible for the thirty versions of the Hippocratic texts here examined, of whom fifteen were holders of chairs (two of them in Italy), three were surgeons, two were casual commentators, and the remaining three were practising physicians. As we would expect, at least six of these, and possibly more, were Jews or of Jewish descent.

This beautifully produced book, a unity alike in the excellence of its scholarship and its typographical design, is a tribute to those standards of excellence which the best Spanish and Hispano-American bibliographies attain. It is, incidentally, a pleasure for at least one English reader to find the list of contents in the familiar and useful place at the front of the text and a good bibliography and name index at the back. The work ends characteristically with the traditional printer's device, colophon, and *Laus Deo*; praise is also due to all those who have achieved the high quality of this work. It will adorn the shelves and provide solid reference material for any library, private or institutional, specialising in history, medicine, or the course of Renaissance thought.